(c) Prasar Bharti has informed that on an average, public service advertising is in the range of 5 to 10% of the total commerical advertising time on Doordarshan. In addition, Doordarshan telecasts large number of messages and spots free of cost, in public interest, which are not considered as advertisements e.g. spots/messages relating to pulse polio campaigns, conservation, health, AIDS etc.

(d) Prasar Bharti has informed that Doordarshan has been telecasting a large number of programmes in different formats including short duration spots to convey emphatically the message of population control and family welfare in all its channels.

Violation of rules by Cable Operators in Rohini, Delhi

1278. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cable T.V. Operator operating from C-12/86, Sector 3, in Rohini, Delhi is registered, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this service provider is serving a large number of households but the number of connections reported by it is very small thereby making illegal profit at the expense of poor consumers;

(c) the factual position in this regard;

(d) the remedies available under the Act/Rules for checking such under-reporting; and

(e) the action proposed against the said operator for violation of the norms?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does not maintain any record of names/number of cable operators registered under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 or the number of subscribers serviced by them. As per information provided by the Office of Chief Post Master General, Delhi Circle, Deptt. of Posts, no cable operator has been registered at the address C-12/86, Sector-3 Rohini, Delhi-85, as per the records of Ashok Vihar HPO, under whose jurisdiction this address falls.

(d) and (e) Presently, there is no provision available under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to check under-reporting of subscribers. Govt. has introduced the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2002 in Parliament with a view to mandating an addressable system for pay channel viewing, through cable networks. The system when mandated is sxpected to bring about transparency in the figures of viewership and will allow the consumer to choose and pay for the channel(s) they wish to watch.

Irregularities in dealings of Doordarshan

†1279. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has mentioned about severe irregularities in the dealings of Doordarshan in its report for the finanacial year ending March, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the irregularities and financial loss incurred by the Institution as a result thereof; and

(c) the names of the officers responsible for these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its Report for the year ended March 2000. Union Government (Civil) (Transaction Audit Observation-No. 2 of 2001) has pointed out certain irregularities in the commercial transactions of Doordarshan. The Report of the C&AG has been tabled in the House and details of the Report are available on the website of C&AG. The Public Accounts Committee has also taken up the above Para of the C&AG Report for detailed examination. Appropriate action, as per laid down procedure will be taken against officers found guilty.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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